

**From:** David C. Spaeth  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 4:11pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Dear Sirs;

I want to respond to the settlement solutions I've read about in the Microsoft anti-trust case.

I have an observation to make - the most simple solution to the case would release the consumer from the affects of the monopoly as well as level the playing field for competition.

Simply require Microsoft to publish the full specification of their software data file formats prior to release. The software data formats - when a consumer creates a document and saves it - should be owned by the consumer. An open format would ensure that "upgrades-for-the-purpose-of-revenue-generation" would cease to require the consumer to upgrade applications because of compatability and allow the software publishers to position their products against Microsoft effectively - the software publisher who truly creates a better mouse-trap would get the sale.

If this isn't done, the monopoly will continue.

Thank you for your time.

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